

Short Range Action Plan 2015

Francetown Conservation Commission

Purpose & Intent of this Plan

The purpose of this short range conservation action plan is to identify and set forth the Francetown Conservation Commission's most important and immediate priority actions, measures and/or conservation projects crucial for protecting the natural resources of the community during 2015.

This short range action plan is an advisory guide only as the Conservation Commission develops its annual work program. More importantly, however, the plan provides a communications tool to inform and educate the public and other boards, committees and commissions within the community what the Conservation Commission views as its highest priorities for the coming year.

While it is recognized that not all plans are static and that conditions may change, all the Conservation Commission's actions, measures, and/or conservation projects identified in this plan are supported by and/or based upon many of the following documented and/or adopted natural resource reports, plans, studies, and/or publications prepared for the community:

- Francetown Conservation Plan & NRI
- FCC Land Protection Guidelines & Criteria List
- Piscataquog Watershed Land Conservation Plan (without co-occurrence model)
- 2010 Updated Piscataquog River Management Plan
- NH Wildlife Action Plan

The Francetown Conservation Commission intends to review and update this plan every year and communicate this plan by making the plan available on the Francetown Website.

Comments from the Conservation Commission Chair

Some of the most significant issues currently facing our community are related to:

1. Invasive species (environmental harm/costs to manage)
2. Watershed and water quality issues (environmental damage/associated costs)
3. Land fragmentation (wildlife habitat/species biodiversity; impacts to farming, forestry, tourism & local economy)
4. Protection of local agricultural resources (potential to grow local food, reduce carbon footprint, support local economy)

Signature of the Chair

Core Conservation Goals for the Year:

- Wildlife Habitat conservation
- Maintain watershed/water quality
- Conservation of forests and farmland

Key Conservation Priorities and Strategies:

- Encourage good Stewardship on private land
- Engage youth in conservation initiatives
- Review/follow adopted management goals and objectives for Conservation Commission managed land.

Recommended Actions/Measures/Projects:

- Outreach and education for the support of natural resource conservation and wildlife habitat protection by conducting hikes and programs, and providing printed material as available.
- Continue collaborative education programs such as the Joan Hanchett Nature Series with the library, Francetown News, Francetown Land Trust, and other conservation organizations.
- Promote sound stewardship of conservation land by responding to citizen requests, planned hikes, and outreach and education programs.
- Support Lake Host Program at Town Meeting.
- Encourage support of local agriculture through events, outreach materials and education.
- Continue to review applications to the Planning Board and ZBA that have potential impacts to natural resources and make appropriate recommendations to avoid/minimize negative impacts.
- Work with the Planning Board on amendments to the Zoning Ordinance (in accordance with the Conservation Plan, and to at least minimally meet State laws and regulations.)
- Continue building partnerships and working cooperatively with other conservation organizations on conservation projects in Francetown.